Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I can expedite it within a month. I have already served a registered notice on him for explanation.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Will you ask him to refund the amount in case it is found that he is not within his rights?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The question of refund is another matter.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—The contractor is collecting the money as if authorized by the Government. If it is found that he is not within his rights, it is extortion of public money and you can demand a refund.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—My predecessor has taken the view that the contractor is right in demanding dues from the passengers. I have received some complaints and I am going to reconsider the whole matter in the light of the agreement and all that and if I find it otherwise I shall order so. The question of refund requires another enquiry, and I may say that it is very difficult to get statistics as to the number of persons that alight there and all that. I fear it will be a futile enquiry.

Cochin registered motor vehicles and their entry to British India.

377. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the attempt of the Government of Madras to restore tolls abolished by the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act 1931;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to do away with the inconvenience and loss now suffered by owners of motor vehicles registered *in Cochin only* and who have occasionally to cross the British Frontier?

(c) have the Government noticed that the attempted restoration of tolls on vehicles refers only to vehicles, 'other than motor vehicles';

(d) have not *Cochin Government-owned* motor vehicles had to pay registration fee when they were found in British India (Chonoor or Ootty);

(e) have not, at least half a dozen Heads of departments of the Cochin State, to cross the British frontier if they want to go to Chittur Taluk from Trichur by car;

(f) do any of them own cars;

(g) had any of them adopted the land route using motor vehicles to go to the Chittur Taluk in 1103?

(h) have those who have, got registered their cars in British India;

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(i) if not registered, what is the procedure adopted to avoid the trouble experienced by non-official owners?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) No.

(b) There was correspondence on the subject between the Cochin Darbar and the Madras Government. The proposals made by the Madras Government could not be accepted.

(c) No.
(d) Yes.
(e) Yes.
(f) Yes.
(g) Yes.
(h) Information is not available
(i) do

Officers employed in licensing country boats.

378. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased—

(a) to supply a list of the officers engaged in licensing the country boats, showing also the present salary drawn by each one of these officers; and

(b) to state whether these officers are entrusted with any work other than the licensing of country boats; and if so, what these works are?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) A list is appended. (*Appendix VIII*).

(b) Yes. Besides licensing country boats these officers are engaged in licensing and registering motor and steam vessels. They are also engaged in controlling canal traffic enforcing time-tables for line boats, checking overload, etc.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Is there now any Canal Officer posted at the Jail Jetty, Ernakulam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are checkers there.

Licensing of country boats—Officers engaged in the work.

379. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing

(a) the number of country boats licensed in the State in 1108, classified according to their size; and

(b) the amounts realised as license fees from each class?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A statement showing the particulars is appended. (*Appendix IX.*)

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—There is a light given here of the boats with their tonnage. Are not boats below one ton taxed?

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